A B S T R A C T

A method of manufacturing a thermostructural composite material bowl, a bowl as obtained by the method, and use of the bowl as a crucible support

A method manufacturing a one-piece bowl of thermostructural composite material comprising fiber reinforcement densified by a matrix. The method comprises supplying deformable fiber plies that are whole, being free from slots or cutouts, superposing said plies on a former of shape corresponding to the bowl to be made, deforming the plies, and bonding the superposed plies to one another by means of fibers extending transversely relative to the plies, e.g. by needling so as to obtain a bowl preform which is then densified. The bowl (1) can be used as a support for a crucible (5) in an installation for producing monocrystalline silicon.